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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(b) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.19)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.19

1. The CHAIRMAN said that Australia, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Peru, Ukraine and Venezuela had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.19*, entitled, "Crime prevention and criminal justice".

2. Mrs. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the provisions of the draft resolution would be applied within the existing resources approved by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. As had already been indicated to the Economic and Social Council at its 1992 substantive session, in the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolutions, which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had recommended for adoption by the Council (E/1992/30/Add.1), the question of the resources and structure of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs would be considered in the context of the revised estimates under section 21 of the draft programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Those revised estimates, which would be submitted to the Fifth Committee at the current session, did not include proposals for the allocation of additional funds.

3. Mr. FERRARIN (Italy) said that it had been decided to delete paragraph 5 of the draft resolution.

4. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.19, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.21, L.22 and L.23)

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolutions under that item did not have any programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21

6. The CHAIRMAN said that Belize, Guinea-Bissau, Lithuania, Malaysia, Myanmar, Panama, Peru, Philippines, St. Kitts and Nevis and Samoa had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21 entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat".

7. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21 was adopted without a vote.

8. Mr. TISSOT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation continued to consider the detailed examination of that agenda item a matter for the Fifth Committee when dealing with personnel questions. However, it recognized that the status of women in the Secretariat was a subject for continuing concern. His delegation would like to see a higher overall participation rate of women in the Secretariat as well as more women in senior posts through ensuring equality and opportunity for all candidates and the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Enriching women's job opportunities at every level was equally important as enabling women to reach senior levels; that would improve the quality of the pool of female middle-management personnel and thereby supply a stream of female candidates for senior-level appointments. He hoped that the post of a focal point for women in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management would enable the Secretariat to take positive measures for ensuring that women who met the required criteria were on every short-list for senior- and middle-management appointments. Where women were not on such lists, recruiters should specifically ask Member States to nominate suitably qualified women.

9. Mrs. SEMAFUMU (Uganda) said that, while her delegation had not wanted to block consensus, it wished to express its reservations concerning paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. The paragraph should have urged the Secretary-General not only to promote but also to appoint more women, which would benefit women from least developed countries that had low representation in the Secretariat.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22

10. The CHAIRMAN said that Belarus, Ecuador, Egypt, Malawi, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, Samoa and Turkey had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

11. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23

12. Mr. QURESHI (Pakistan) said that there were two amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23, entitled "Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women". The words "of China" should be inserted after the phrase "appreciation to the Government" in the fourth line of paragraph 8. In addition, paragraph 25 should be deleted and the numbering of the subsequent paragraphs corrected.

13. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 91: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1

14. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1, entitled "Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" had no programme budget implications.

15. Mr. DHALLADOO (Mauritius) submitted an amendment on behalf of the Group of African States, which proposed that, in paragraph 3, the final phrase "especially in South Africa and in occupied territories and territories under alien domination" should be deleted.

16. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

17. Ms. TERANISHI (Japan) said that, although her delegation had joined the consensus, it wished to reiterate its reservations in respect of paragraph 7, which mentioned the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

18. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said he welcomed the first opportunity for his country to consider a draft resolution on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination since the General Assembly had revoked its resolution equating zionism with racism. Although his delegation had joined the consensus, it felt that there were too many references to apartheid, considering that concrete progress towards dismantling that system had been made. Indeed, paragraph 17 called upon Governments to encourage further positive change in South Africa, but, in the opinion of his delegation, the reference to maintaining pressure against South Africa was incomplete. It was essential to urge all parties to renew their negotiations to achieve a peaceful, non-racial and democratic society for all the citizens of South Africa.

19. Mr. SHARP (Australia) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, but that his country did not intend to become a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

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20. Mr. MORA GODOY (Cuba) said that his delegation wished to make some observations regarding Programme 4: Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization, found in the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6). Traditionally, that programme had been devoted to political issues of major significance; however, a new subprogramme had now been inserted entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections", which did not fit in with the overall direction of programme 4.

(Mr. Mora Godoy, Cuba)

21. It went without saying that the question had arisen from resolutions adopted in the Third Committee. Since the submission of that initiative by the United States delegation in 1988, one of its most highly debated aspects had been, precisely, its assignment. After arduous negotiations, the conclusion had been reached that it should be considered under the agenda item on human rights. However, by-passing that approach, it had been decided to place it in the context of peace and security, self-determination and other aspects. His delegation was unaware of the reasons for which that change had been made, and proposed that the question should be incorporated in programme 35, "Promotion and protection of human rights".

22. Another cause for concern to his delegation was that the new element in programme 4 had become a subprogramme. It should be recalled that the subprogrammes incorporated into programme 35 on human rights were general in nature and covered a large number of different questions under a basic category. He wondered why an attempt was being made to elevate the question of elections to that level when other matters such as self-determination, the right to development, torture and many others did not merit that status. It was possible that the importance of that element had been exaggerated. Cuba believed that the question of enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections should not be a separate subprogramme, but should be incorporated under programme 35, subprogramme 3, "Advisory services and technical cooperation".

23. As for the text of subprogramme 4, paragraph 4.37 of document A/47/6 indicated that its legislative mandate derived from General Assembly resolution 46/137. He wondered why General Assembly resolution 46/130, entitled "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes", had not been mentioned as well.

24. Finally, paragraph 4.39 of that document indicated that an Electoral Assistance Unit had been established. His delegation wished to know what competent body had decided on its establishment. Resolution 46/137 spoke only of the designation of a senior official to act as a focal point. Paragraph 4.39 mentioned that the Unit had been established to provide development assistance. That objective did not flow from any resolution. The conditionality established between development assistance and the holding of elections was unacceptable and offensive. Cuba believed that both aspects should be corrected until the General Assembly had examined those questions and had taken its sovereign decisions.

25. Ms. FENG Cui (China) recalled that the Bureau had assigned subprogramme 4 to the Special Political Committee and not to the Third Committee. The Chairman of the Special Political Committee had, at that time, informed Member States that comments regarding subprogramme 4 should be submitted in writing before a deadline, which had not yet passed.

(Ms. Feng Cui, China)

26. On the other hand, the Secretary-General's report entitled "Request to the United Nations to observe the referendum process in Eritrea" (A/47/544) referred to a new unit whose establishment had not been approved by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, namely, the Electoral Assistance Unit of the Department of Political Affairs. Her delegation requested the Chairman to clarify, first, whether the unit in question indeed existed and, if so, what body had taken the decision to establish it. Second, she asked if the deadline established by the Chairman of the Special Political Committee for submission of comments on subprogramme 4 remained in effect.

27. Her delegation shared the feeling of other delegations that the subprogramme should be transferred to the Third Committee, since its legal basis was found in General Assembly resolution 46/137, adopted under the human rights item assigned to that Committee. Therefore, it seemed inappropriate for a Committee that had not adopted that resolution to examine a subprogramme based on it.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.